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THE NATIVE IN EDMONTON

A REPORT ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY NATIVES IN THE CITY

PREPARED BY: The Social Planning Unit,
City of Edmonton Social Services
Department and
The Native Secretariat

1976

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Service Department
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Foreword

This research was made possible through a Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) grant, which was administered through the Native Secretariat. Two researchers, Bryan O'Hegan and Dorothy Daniels, students at the University of Alberta, were hired for the period May to August, 1976. Their research was directly supervised by David Hannis, Social Planner, Social Planning Unit, City of Edmonton Social Services, whilst responsibility for the coordination of the project lay with Geoff Milligan, Native Liaison Officer, Native Secretariat.

We should like to extend an appreciation to all those people who provided advice, information, and direction, and without whose invaluable help this report would not have been possible.

In November, 1975, an approach was made to City Council by Harold Cardinal, Executive Director, Native Outreach, requesting that an attempt be made to seek to alleviate some of the problems which certain urban natives were experiencing, particularly in the area of housing. Subsequently, a number of interested city agencies, including the Social Services Department, were asked to submit relevant comments to the Public Affairs Committee, and following discussion by that group, it was referred to the Edmonton Inter-governmental Information Committee for further consideration. This latter committee agreed that, as in many other cities in Canada, the process of adaption by the rural native to urban environments was giving growing cause for concern. However, it was felt that further research was necessary before suggestions on future policy direction could be given. Consequently the City Social Services, along with Native Secretariat, undertook research into the native question during the four month period from May to August, 1976.

At the outset, the assumptions which lay behind the study were that:
1. there was a native problem of considerable dimensions in the city,
2. the problem was increasing, and
3. existing agencies were failing to meet the needs of this growing segment of the urban population.

After an initial investigation period of four weeks, during which time a considerable number of pertinent agencies in the city were interviewed, research goals were clarified. It was decided that an attempt would be made to gauge the extent of the native problem in the city and isolate both existing and likely future trends in some major areas. It was anticipated that there would be a lack of specific data, nevertheless it was hoped that from both the limited statistics available and the impressions gained from a number of agencies that some fairly reliable conclusions could be drawn.

Therefore, at the outset it was proposed that research would be conducted into the following topic areas:
1. Alcoholism amongst Natives
2. Employment of Natives
3. The Housing Needs of Natives
4. Home Abuse (i.e., natives as tenants)
5. Discrimination against Natives
6. Cultural/Urban Adjustment Problems
7. Use of the Social Service System.

However, for a four month study this proved to be too ambitious, therefore, it was decided to concentrate research efforts into the following areas:
1. Urban Native Population Trends
2. Employment
3. Housing
4. Quality of Life
5. Schooling
6. Inter-agency Cooperation and Coordination.

II. METHODOLOGY

Initially an overall investigative method was employed in order to determine exactly what information resources did exist. In this respect the approach was rather like that of a dectective or reporter, following available leads as they became apparent. In addition, several attempts were made to generate more organized data; therefore, the research methodology was as follows:

A. GENERAL

Open-ended, non-structured, personal interviews were held with a number of agencies and organizations. (A list of those contacted is included in Appendix A.) These initial interviews helped to orientate the researchers and also provided many useful insights and creative suggestions.

B. AGENCY SURVEY

An attempt to clarify certain issues was made by mailing out interview schedules to a large number of selected agencies (see Appendix B). Of the 104 organizations contacted in this way, twenty-nine replied (see Appendix C). Despite this poor response and the difficulties experienced when trying to interpret the information provided, some useful data was obtained in this way.

C. INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

This was mailed out to about 400 native people in the city but the numbers returned were so few that it was decided to disregard this method as a reliable source of data. It is suggested to the researchers here that if they decide on this approach in future studies, there should be staff available to engage in intensive personal follow-up on questionnaires to insure a high rate of return.

D. FURTHER INTERACTION WITH SOME AGENCIES

Contact with some of the agencies, which had initially responded to the questionnaire, was continued throughout the study for the purpose of gathering more detailed information.

E. UNSTRUCTURED, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH NATIVE PEOPLE

These interviews were conducted in the Bus Depot, in other downtown locations and on the premises of one welfare agency. We were fortunate to engage a fluent Cree speaker for this part of the research.

F. SURVEY OF TWENTY SELECTED SCHOOLS

A questionnaire was mailed to twenty schools, which School Board Administrators had defined as having a large proportion of native students. Seventeen schools completed the questionnaire.

A. POPULATION

As previously mentioned, there is little reliable statistical data specific to natives available primarily because of the difficulty in defining the term 'native' for statistical purposes, and partly because of the reluctance of agencies to categorize clients into native and non-native groupings. However, figures for the number of Treaty Indians in the city can be obtained and some generalizations for the native population as a whole can be made from these.

Between 1951 and 1971 the number of Treaty Indians in the city increased dramatically from 116 to 4260.[1] In the Province as a whole, the total Treaty Indian population increased by one-third in the ten year period ended 1975.[2] If one assumes three Metis and/or non-status Indians for every Treaty Indian in the city, it can probably be safely assumed that the total native population in Edmonton in 1976 was 20,000.[3] Of these, approximately twenty percent live in the McCauley/Boyle Street area of the city and comprised, for the most part (70%), of single mother led families.[4]

Given the general world-wide drift of population to urban centres and the indications, currently apparent in Alberta, it would seem that the number of natives residing in Edmonton is likely to increase over the next few years. How dramatic this rise will be in Edmonton is difficult to predict, although estimates of trends in other urban centres in Canada indicate that the proportion of native to non-native city dwellers will increase substantially over the next decade. For example, a study prepared in Manitoba[5] in 1976, predicted that by 1985 half of that Province's Indian population would reside in Winnipeg and the other larger urban centres. In Saskatchewan estimates are more cautious, although the same trends are apparent. At the present time, twenty-two percent of that Province's native people live in the cities. It has been estimated[6] that within five years this figure will be at least half as large again (35%).

B. EMPLOYMENT

Although Edmonton is an area of relatively full employment, natives in the city do tend to encounter more difficulties in finding jobs than other urban dwellers. Often they lack the necessary skills or previous work experience to obtain good jobs in an industrial setting or they are without any means of transport, which limits the choice of jobs available.

As has been mentioned elsewhere in this report, it is not possible to measure with complete accuracy the number of natives coming to the city. However, both from the data available and the somewhat impressionistic information generated from personal interviews, it is possible to suggest that the vast majority of natives coming to Edmonton do so in search of employment and that of these significant numbers are from out of the Province.

Data supplied by the Department of Indian Affairs indicated that approximately one-third of Treaty Indians arriving in the city over a given period of time were from out of the Province. Interviews conducted at the city bus depot indicated that a major reason for natives coming to the city was either to find a job or to engage in job training. Many of the younger native adults were without formal qualifications or previous work experience, putting them at a disadvantage when competing for jobs.

employment or vocational training for natives, often their attempts are unsuccessful because of the existance of other problems, frequently alcohol related.

C. HOUSING

At the present time, with the current extreme shortage of rental accommodation, any newcomer to the city are likely to experience great difficulties in finding a suitable place to live. However, for native people the situation is usually even more difficult. Discrimination, low incomes, large families, a lack of urban skills all conspire to make the situation for native citizens intolerable.

Most natives coming to the city to live make little attempt to find accommodation prior to moving to the city and usually rely on relatives and friends to provide temporary shelter for them after arrival. A study published in 1971 showed that over 76% of native Indians migrating to the city had relatives living there and 65% had friends living in Edmonton.[7] However, frequently temporary accommodation can extend over a considerable period of time and can create an extremely unsatisfactory home environment for all concerned. Moreover, few good landlords will tolerate overcrowding and under these circumstances eviction is highly likely. This kind of situation can reinforce stereotypes of the 'typical' native tenant, partying all night, damaging property, and creating health hazards by living in overcrowded conditions. Thus, responsible landlords become unwilling to rent to natives and may resort to a subtle discrimination against them. As a result, even for those natives who have been fortunate enough to obtain good rental accommodation, their loyalty to their relatives and friends may lead to their own eviction. However, for most native families new to the city the only accommodation available is generally of low quality and expensive. Moreover, many of these slum dwellings exist in those areas of the city, McCauley, Boyle Street, Jasper Place, and more recently the Strathcona/Garneau area, where significant numbers of native families already reside.

Although the vast majority of native newcomers to the city 'solve' their own accommodation problems themselves, there are several agencies which can assist. For native families of five or more persons, the Canative Housing Corporation has 109 units available in various parts of the city. However, with a current waiting list of over 400 it is unlikely that a new family to the city would obtain immediate help.

For those people able to pay the registration fee, the private rental agencies might be able to assist, or alternatively, the city-owned 'Housing Registry' provides a free service. This latter agency estimated that 20% of those using its services between December 15th, 1975 and April 30th, 1976 were natives and very few of these were successful in obtaining accommodation.

Similarly, native people with immediate accommodation problems are unlikely to be offered a public housing unit. Currently all applicants to the Edmonton Housing Authority have to have resided in the city for six months before they are considered for public housing. Moreover, the present waiting list is almost as long as the total number of units available in the city.

other assistance for natives with accommodation problems is provided through Native Outreach and the Inner City Housing Registry. This latter agency dealt with approximately 300 native clients between February and April, 1976, of whom about half were single parents. It was successful in finding accommodation for about half of them.

In conclusion, for a variety of reasons, it may be said that a large proportion of the natives coming to the city are compelled to live in inadequate accommodation for substantial periods of time, a situation which mitigates strongly against a healthy adjustment to urban life.

D. QUALITY OF LIFE

Although this is a somewhat nebulous concept, it is probably reasonable to assume that the 'quality of life' is very poor for many of Edmonton's native citizens. Many of the agencies contacted during the course of this study, both government and private, were aware of serious home problems. Among those more frequently identified were:

1. a lack of recreational activities, especially for the young,
2. loneliness, perhaps linked to alcoholism,
3. problems with friends and relatives making unreasonable demands,
4. child neglect,
5. alcoholism, and
6. very poor home environment resulting from poor quality accommodation or overcrowding.

However, a study conducted in 1970[8] did attempt to measure the degree to which a given sample of native Indians felt that they were happier living in the city rather than in their home areas. Although nearly two-thirds of the sample felt that their standard of living had improved by moving to the city, only about one-third felt that their quality of life had improved and an equal number to this actually felt that they were more discontent with city life than they were before their move. The reasons for this are probably quite complex, although one reason might be the loss of identity and sense of alienation and isolation which some native people feel as they attempt to adapt to the whiteman's culture.

Statistics taken from a 1971 study in Edmonton[9] indicate a significant degree of family and cultural breakdown had occurred amongst Edmonton's native Indian population. Thirty-one percent of urban natives never participated in cultural activities, compared with seven percent of the rural population. Twenty-eight percent of urban natives could not speak their native tongue compared to four percent on a rural reserve. Seventy-two percent of the children of female household heads did not speak the native language.

A further search of the available data gives other indications that significant numbers of natives lack a fulfilling life style. In just about every category of social problems they are over represented, eg., welfare recipients, alcoholics, prison dwellers, single parents, etc. Over a one month period, 25%[10] of single parents seeking public assistance from one Edmonton office were natives. A study of selected native cases by the Department of Social Services and Community Health in 1974[11] indicated that alcohol was a significant causal factor in 61.5% of physical abuse cases, 62% of abandonment cases, and 63.2% of SALL recipients. Finally, if one looks at suicide rates amongst the entire Albertan native population, it has been estimated that natives are between five and twenty times more likely to take their own lives than white people.[12]

E. SCHOOLING

This study did not attempt to analyze in any detail the difficulties which native children experience in school but merely attempted to solicit from a selection of schools in the city the Principals' concerns about their native pupils. Consequently, twenty questionnaires were mailed to a range of schools in the city, of which seventeen were returned (see Appendix D). The actual number of native children at any one school ranged from ten to two hundred, and the number attending the schools which replied were 965. Of these, school staff indicated that almost half (46.8%) were having 'school problems.' The concerns most frequently mentioned were:

1. absenteeism,
2. lack of incentive, motivation, and interest,
3. lack of self-discipline, discipline-related problems, and
4. poor work habits and no concern for timetables and routine.

The most significant causes of these problems were said to be:

1. lack of concern, attention, and assistance from home or parents,
2. alcoholism in the home,
3. lack of adequate diet, shelter, clothing, and sleep,
4. no models in terms of work at home, lack of incentive and motivation from home,
5. cultural and/or environmental deprivation, cultural adjustment,
6. transciency,
7. inability of parents to discipline children,
8. extended family problems, a poor home situation, negative influences from home, broken families, and
9. conflict of values, stiffer motivation.

Although the rather unscientific nature of this survey makes it difficult to draw any valid conclusions, it would seem that a large number of the native children in the city's elementary and junior high schools are unlikely to complete high school and eventually enter the job market equipped for any employment other than the lowest paid menial tasks.

Certainly the impressionistic evidence gained from this study would seem to support recent pessimistic statements as those made by the Native Council of Canada, which has suggested that as few as three percent of native children will complete high school. A recent study in Regina put this figure slightly higher, at ten percent, and Dr. Cone of the University of Alberta Education Psychology Department has suggested that similar figures exist for Edmonton.[13]

F. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

An assumption held at the outset of this study was that poor communication between agencies servicing natives in the city was resulting in confusion and constraints on the total amount of help available to native citizens. Furthermore, it had been suggested that many of the agencies preferred this situation to continue since it enabled them to create their own areas of expertise, and consequently would be in a stronger position to obtain funds.

Certainly one fact to emerge from the study was that agencies, both government and private, did not have a total grasp of other organizations' responsibilities, criterion, etc. Similarily, many of the native newcomers to the city had only a scanty knowledge of where they might obtain help. The comment was made by one of the researchers, herself a native person, that 'the knowledge native people come to the city with usually consists of the Department of Indian Affairs, the Provincial Government, and a large number of social agencies and Government Departments that do not serve their needs.'

From the native's point of view, many of the newcomers are sceptical that their needs will be met by any of the government agencies and some resort to manipulative tactics, such as the display of anger or appearing completely helpless. For their part, the government agencies are unclear as to who has precise responsibility for certain natives and may refer the client to another place, from where he may be referred again.

However, many of the native agencies, both private and government, particularly those involved in direct client service, indicated that they would like to improve communication between each other. Indeed, an encouraging start has already been made in this area with the Provincial Department of Social Services and Community Health, South Edmonton Regional Offices' initiating a Task Force, which has been able to bring together government officials and the staff from native agencies, to examine issues of common concern.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

At the conclusion of this four month study it may be said that whilst it has not been possible to generate data which conclusively indicates the extent of the native problems in the city, there is enough evidence available to give some cause for concern.

A. POPULATION

It has not been possible to arrive at an accurate assessment of the total number of natives in the city, nor the rate of increase in the size of the urban native population in recent years. Staff from various welfare agencies indicate some apparent increase in the number of natives on their caseloads. For example, between 1973 and 1975 the number of Treaty-status children coming into care increased by approximately twelve percent.[14] However, Provincial Welfare staff have reported an acceleration in recent times of the number of Metis returning to Metis colonies.[15] Perhaps this trend will continue as city life becomes less attractive to natives, whilst conditions in the rural areas improves. It is possibly true to say, therefore, that there is a constant to and fro of natives between the city and rural communities, with the number of natives actually resident in the city at any one time on the increase.

B. EMPLOYMENT

Data which is available does not support the myth that many of the natives living in the city are lazy drunks, who prefer to live off welfare rather than work for a living. Rather, recent estimates from the Provincial Department of Social Services and Community Health indicate that within the category of unemployed employables, less than ten percent were natives. Similarly, only about ten percent of elderly and/or all persons claiming assistance from that Department were native. In fact, most of the natives in receipt of welfare in Edmonton are single parent families.

The evidence does indicate that most natives come to the city either in search of work or to upgrade their levels of skill. However, many find that because of the lack of appropriate previous experience and training, the only employment available are the low paid, menial jobs. For natives with families, living in expensively rented accommodation, the incentive to work rather than receive public assistance must be very low.

Of those coming to the city to upgrade their skills, many do not meet the entrance requirements of regular vocational schools or else the training offered is not appropriate.[17]

Finally, it should be noted that many natives experience difficulties in retaining consistent employment because of a variety of personal and family problems which affect their job performance, and because they have not acquired a consistent attitude towards work.

C. HOUSING

In the search for adequate rental accommodation, natives find even more difficulty than caucasian persons. Evidence of discrimination, on the grounds of race or family size, were reported, and although illegal, it would be unlikely that recourse to the law would be taken even where it could be proved. The normal pattern of obtaining shelter is for natives to stay with friends and relatives or in a hotel/motel until accommodation can be found. This can lead to overcrowded conditions and intolerable intra and inter-family tensions.

There are some agencies in the city which are able to assist natives with accommodation problems and generally they do a good job. However, there is a very real acute shortage of rental housing of all types and landlords are able to be fairly selective in the persons they offer tenancies to. Moreover, the lack of choice in accommodation tends to lead to natives being more heavily concentrated in certain areas of the city than others, most notably Jasper Place, Boyle Street/McCauley and the area south of the river around 82nd Avenue.

D. QUALITY OF LIFE

It would appear from the somewhat limited evidence available that, although natives may be materially more affluent living in the city, a considerable number are less content with their life style than they were when living in rural communities. Alcohol abuse was a common concern voiced by agencies and this in turn seemed to be a significant causal factor leading to many other social problems. One agency, Poundmaker Lodge, exists specifically to treat native alcoholics but for the single person, perhaps with a family, returning to a rather hostile community, the temptation to return to the bars, which cater to the social needs of natives, must be high.

E. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The general feeling of the research staff, after meeting with agencies and client users, was that there was a need to improve the communiciation flow, both between agencies, and between agencies and the public. Some confusion seemed to exist amongst staff of the government agency about precisely whose 'responsibility' some native people in search of help were, and this led to some clients being referred to several different agencies. At the same time, it was also felt that more could be done by some of the native organizations themselves to better meet the needs of the native people living in the city.

As well as communication difficulties between agencies, the problem of 'client manipulation' of various organizations was also identified. However, as was stated elsewhere, many natives do not make as much use of the services of certain agencies as they could.

F. SCHOOLING

The results of a survey of seventeen schools indicated that almost half the native pupils in them were experiencing school difficulties, the most common of which was absenteeism. Figures available from other parts of Canada and from here in Edmonton indicate that a depressingly low number of native children will complete high school education (10%). Thus, it seems that much of the intellectual potential of our native citizens will remain undeveloped in the future, and with society's growing emphasis on the necessity for formal qualifications, such as university degrees, it seems that the vast majority of the next generation of natives are likely to remain at the poverty level.

Many of the agencies contacted during this study argued for the appointment of more native personnel in the civil service. It was suggested that to work with natives, staff needed an appreciation of the native culture. Indeed, some agencies have in the past specifically hired native workers. However, some of those native persons employed found that unreasonable work loads and expectations were laid on them once hired.

RECOMMENDATIONS

et out below are some recommendations which those engaged in this study would like o see serious consideration given to:

. The provision of more low cost, high quality rental accommodation for native persons.
. The provision of an emergency family shelter staffed by native personnel for newcomers to the city, where orientation into city life could begin.
. More research into the types of housing which would best meet native needs, eg., cooperative housing, etc.
. Provision of supervised family units for native 'problem families' evicted from elsewhere. Staffed by native personnel these centres would provide some urban skills training.
. The appointment of skilled community development workers, who would encourage the development of native support groups throughout the city.
. The provision of more half-way houses for natives discharged from hospitals and prisons.
. The provision of more opportunities for natives to learn new skills.
. The establishment of a native-controlled workshop, where natives could learn new skills and develop a sense of self-worth. Payment would be on a piece work basis.
. A study of the special education needs of natives, with a ~~commitment to action~~.
0. The encouragement of the preservation of native culture in the cities.
1. More preparation for rural natives for life in the city before they decide to migrate.
2. More long-term funding of proven native projects.
3. More public education to end the 'stereotyping' of natives.
4. More education of natives to understand their rights under the law.
5. The establishment of a permanent advisory committee, consisting of the representatives of native organizations and agencies and government officials, to plan effective policies together.
6. The hiring of more native staff in government agencies.
7. The setting up of better information systems in agencies, as a initial step towards a more comprehensive study at a later date.

APPENDIX A

The following agencies were contacted during the initial stages of the research.

Department of Social Services and Community Health
Metis Association Local #100 Housing Committee
Edmonton Housing Authority
YWCA
Native Outreach
Edmonton Social Planning Council
Nechi Institute
Poundmakers Lodge
Metis Association of Alberta
Humans on Welfare
Inner City Housing
Department of Indian Affairs
Indian Association of Alberta
Native Counselling Services
Human Rights Commission
Secretary of State's Department
City of Edmonton Police Department
City Housing Registry
Charles Camsell Hospital
AADAC
Unicom
Consumer Help
Communities
Department of Health and Welfare
Canadian Native Friendship Centre
Boyle Street Coop
Single Men's Hostel

APPENDIX B
LIST OF AGENCIES CONTACTED

Agriculture Department
Advanced Education
Alberta Housing Corporation (AHC)
Alberta's Women's Bureau
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC)
Alberta Native Development Corporation (ANDCO)
A.I.D. Service of Edmonton
Alberta Native Communications Society (ANCS)
Attorney General's Department
Assessment Appeal Board
Alberta Opportunity Company

Boyle Street Community Services Coop
Bissell Centre

City Social Services Homemaker Course
City Social Services Day Care
City Centre Cooperative Club
City Housing Registry
Canative Housing
Canative Homemaking Course
Canada Manpower (to look for work)
Canada Manpower (job training)
Canadian Native Friendship Centre (CNFC)
Catholic Family and Child Services
Charles Camsell Hospital (Social service)
Crisis Unit (emergency welfare service
Communitas
Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department
Community Mental Health Services

Department of Indian Affairs (DIAND)
Debtors Assistance Board
Distress Line A.I.D.
Dev-Cor Technical Services
Detoxification Centre

Edmonton Drug Treatment Clinic
Edmonton Women's Shelter
Edmonton Housing Authority
Edmonton Social Services

Federation of Metis Colonies

Government Information Services (provincial)
Government Information Services (federal)

Human Rights Commission
Humans on Welfare (HOW)
Health and Welfare Canada
[illegible]awood
Halfway Recovery Acres
Harbour Light Centre and Rehabilitation Unit
Hilltop House

Intoxification Recovery Centre
Inner City Housing Project
Industrial Relations Board
Indian Association of Alberta

Jasper Place Community Services Centre
John Howard Society

Kindred House

Landlord and Tenant Association
Lawyer Referral Services
Legal Aid Society
Labour Department
Land Department
Lieutenant Governor's Office

Medicare
Metis Federation of Colonies
Marion Centre
McDougall House
Men's Social Services Centre
Metis Association of Alberta

Native Outreach (job placement service)
Native Counselling Services
Neegan Society
Native Brotherhood Society
Native Benevolent Society
Native Secretariat
Nechi Institute

Operation Friendship
Operation We Care

Poundmakers Lodge
Poundmakers Street Patrol
Provincial Welfare (any of their offices)
Project Recovery
Project 72
Police Station
Public Affairs Department
Provincial Board of Health
Public Service Commission of Canada
Preventive Social Services of Edmonton

CONTINUED

Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Department

School Boards
Student Finance Board
Secretary of State
Social Development
Student Legal Services
Salvation Army
Single Men's Hostel
Strike Four Outreach Society

Unemployment Insurance Commission

Voice of Alberta Native Women's Society (VANWS)
Veteran's Affairs Department

Women's Emergency Accommodation
Woodside Home
Worker's Compensation Board

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
Youth, Culture and Recreation
Youth Development Centre (YDC)

APPENDIX C

The following twenty-nine agencies replied to our questionnaire in part or in full. (Several that did not apply to the urban situation were discarded.)

Consumer Help
DAC
Crisis Unit
Single Men's Hostel
YWCA
Social Services and Community Health
Legal Aid
Inner City Housing Project
Boyle Street Coop
Marion Centre
Intoxification Recovery Centre
Canative Housing
Canada Manpower
Native Outreach
OPEN DOOR
Catholic Family and Child Services
Human Rights Commission
Unemployment Insurance Commission
Labour Standards Branch
Edmonton Public School Board
Hemwood
Big Sisters
Hilltop House
YDC
Meegan Society
Our Lady of Atonement Home
City Centre Cooperative Club
John Howard Society
City of Edmonton Police

June 30, 1976

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like your assistance in completing a survey on the migration of Native people to Edmonton. Your cooperation will be valuable and very much appreciated. Please find enclosed one, five-page "Agency Survey".

Realizing that there are few statistics available in the area of investigation, we are asking agencies to make the best possible "educated guesses". We are not asking for hard statistical data rather your professional judgement based on the experience of yourself and others in your agency. Of course, the questionaire is so designed that if you do possess statistical data, it should be used.

If you have any statistics which you feel would be useful to our project, especially on your Native clients, could you please forward it to us with the completed questionaire if possible, or if a cost is entailed, could you let us know of the paper or report?

For this questionaire, we are interested only in your clients that are "Native", that is Treaty Indian, Metis and Non-Status Indian. If you have non-native clients, please exclude them for the purpose of this survey, unless explicitly asked for.

A number of agencies will not have available records or statistics to draw on. The person responsible for answering this questionaire however, may make educated guesses drawing on their own experience and the experience of other staff. Beside some of the questions are brackets, ( ), in which an "R" is to be placed if the information indicated in the answer, is based on records rather than being an estimate.

We require that you return the survey(questionaire) to our office by July 15, 1976. If you have any questions or problems whatsoever, please do not hesitiate to call either Brian or Dorothy at 424-9413. Please mail survey (questionaire) to:

Brian O'Hagan
#14,10712 - 100 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 0B7

Again, thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Dorothy Daniels - Brian O'Hagan
Researchers

P.S. Also find enclosed a brief description of the "Edmonton Native Project 1976"

Name of agency _____ Phone _____

Person responsible for filling in questionaire _____

(R) - fill in bracket with an "R" if the answer to the question is based on records

PART A

1. What type of agency are you? (i.e. federal, provincial, city, Native, private or other; specify) _____

2. Could you indicate the number or percentage of your clients who are Metis or non status Indian and the number who are Treaty Indian?

Treaty Indian _____% ( )

Metis _____% ( )

PART B

1. Could you describe the active function(s), service(s) of your organization, if possible, in point form. Only include those goals, objectives or aims that actually deal directly with the service you provide to people . If you have more than one function, (service), include all of them (i.e. 1) provide job training, 2) counselling)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

If more space is required please use a blank paper and attach to the questionaire.

Through this survey, we are attempting to identify those factors that cause problems in an agency's service, over and above which there is no control. For example:
(a) if may be that your service is working well, but that it is not large enough to handle all those who need it and you have a long waiting list. In this case, a solution would be to enlarge your service or to have others of it's kind start up.
(b) People coming from your program are doing well, but since no halfway house is present to provide training for work and shelter, your clients fall back into the same old problem environment.
(c) Some means of transportation and day care is needed for your clients in order to get them to come, as not many turn up. ETC., ETC.

2. With regard to the functions of your agency as you have indicated in PART B (1), estimate for the function(s), of all Native clients who needed your service and who contacted you, and who would have been acceptable and eligible to use your service (including those who were turned away because you already had too many clients, those who you were and were not able to help and those who were not able to use your service because of lack of a babysitter, transportation or motivation), how many have you not been able to help satisfactorily and adequately, due to "external" factors...

(a) In the last 12 months? (i.e. for two functions: housing-7, jobs-5) _____ ( )

_____

(i.e. housing-6, jobs-15, etc.) _____( )

_____

_____

3. For each of your agency's functions (PART B, 1 only) discuss the reasons, (external factors) why the Native people (only if the number is significant) who contacted your agency as dealt with in PART B, 2, were not helped satisfactorily and adequately. For each of these reasons, what are the solutions?

EXTERNAL FACTORS — SOLUTIONS

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

If more space is required please use a blank paper and attach to the questionaire.

4. Could you indicate the total number of Native clients who had need of your service, who were eligible for it and who contacted you, (include those helped and not helped by your efforts, those who used your service and those who for some reason did not)...
(a) in the last 12 months? _____

5. (a) How many people are on a waiting list for your agency _____( )

_____

(b) What is the average length of time a person must wait, between the time they first come for help at your office and the time they receive the help? _____( )

_____

(c) In your opinion, is this waiting period very harmful to the client? (i.e. does the client need much more immediate action?) _____( )

_____

_____

(d) If pressed, how many people could you help satisfactorily, in a year if your present resources were unchanged? _____( )

_____

_____

_____

6. (a) Is your agency involved in any kind of inter-agency cooperation and coordination through meetings etc.? _____

(b) Under what conditions would your agency become involved in an inter-agency cooperation and coordination effort? _____

(c) How could the above be set up organizationally? (i.e. an office established specifically to coordinate agencies or monthly meetings of various agencies to discuss issues, etc.) _____

(d) Could you indicate the degree of effort your agency would be willing to give to such a set up as you describe? _____

(e) What are the main obstacles that stand in the way of inter-agency cooperation and coordination? _____

(f) With what agencies is inter-agency cooperation and coordination particularly desired? For each agency indicated, what use would be made of any acquired cooperation and coordination?

AGENCY	USE

If more space is required please use a blank paper and attach to the questionaire.

7. (a) If you do not keep records on Native clients, please explain why. (i.e. lack of funds and/or time to do this; Human Rights aspect; you do not think it is necessary etc.) _____

8. Your agency may have become aware of gaps and overlaps in the Social Service System (if any). Gaps and overlaps are of two kinds:
   i) Qualitative - where a new type of service is needed

Service System _____

(b) Can you identify any other problems which exist in the services provided to Native people? _____

(c) In your opinion, can some of the gaps and problems be alleviated by agencies in rural communities? Please describe how this can be done? _____

9. (a) How many people has your agency encountered, who were not able to obtain needed help from the Social Service System? (Only Native people) _____( )

(b) How many Native people do you get referred to you in a year? _____( )

(c) Could you list the agencies who most often refer Native people to you? _____( )

(d) i) How many Native people do you get referred to you incorrectly in a year? _____( )

ii) Which agencies do this most often? (the names of agencies will not be published in our report nor will they be used for any type of evaluation purposes) _____( )

(e) Which agencies most often phone or write to you explaining that a Native person is being referred to you? _____( )

(f) How many Native people do you refer to other agencies in a year? _____( )

(g) Which agencies do you refer Native people to most often? _____( )

... that know who is doing: _____(

(8) Any comments on the "referral system" between agencies? _____

_____

_____

_____

10. Is your agency set up to do follow up work with clients who have either been assisted by your agency or have been referred to other agencies? _____

_____

11. How many people have used your agency within the last 12 months? _____( )

_____

Within 24 to 12 moths? _____( )

What was the percentage or number of: NATIVE _____( )

NON-NATIVE _____( )

PART D HOUSING: PLEASE ANSWER ONLY IF YOUR AGENCY HAS ANY WORKING KNOWLEDGE IN THIS AREA.

1. To the best of your knowledge, where are Native people living in the city now, in view of the increase in the Native population and the housing shortage? (i.e. please indicate the destricts of the city as well as whether they are living in houses or apartments or with friends, relatives, etc.) _____( )

_____

_____

_____

2. If you have indicated that a crowding situation exists, is it such that for alot of families, severe problems are taking place? (i.e. please indicate what types of problems exist --- alcoholism, home abuse, family break-ups, etc.) _____( )

_____

_____

_____

3. How many families with children, (single parents included) has your agency encountered in the last year who suffer long term problems due to the problems mentioned or described above? _____( )

_____

_____

_____

If you have any questions or problems, please call either Brian or Dorothy at 424-9416. We will be pleased to answer your questions.

THANK YOU

6th FLOOR C.N. TOWER – EDMONTON, ALBERTA – T5J 0K1
TELEPHONE 425-5270

from Bryan O'Hagan
#14,107 12 100th.ave.
Edmonton,Alberta
June 7th./76

Dear Principal (and/or Guidance Counsellor)

The city of Edmonton is conducting research into the needs and trends of needs of native people in the city. I am requesting your help, as we are interested in the many dimensions and ramifications of "native problems" and one area concerns the effect on school performance.

The purpose of this survey is to look for trends of problems native children may experience. This may help us to better grasp how the social service system may better respond to some of these problems.

Could you please use the form provided. I am asking for your professuional judgement, based on experience, not "hard statistical data",(unless you happen to have it handy).

The information you provide, in any report will be averaged with other schools, so that confidentiality will be maintained with regard to a specific school's data .

If you have any questions, please contact me at 424-9413, any time.

Yours Sincerely

key ex.=example, native=status indian,non status indian,metis

Name of School_____

Grades_____(ex.1 to 7)Number of Pupils_____(ex.apprx.250)

Estimate of the number of natives_____(ex.apprx.50)

DEFINITION:Various "school problems", would include attendance, discipline,work habits,school preparedness(i.e. lack of adequate food and sleep), delinquincy, poor grades etc.

1.Could you please give a crude estimate of the number of native children, having presented school problems,(that is for an individual the problem was such that it was chronic, presenting a major roadblock in his/her school career),this school year 75-76?

_____(ex.23)

2.In order to indicate a trend, could you please give an estimate of the %,increase in the number having school problems, compared to the school year of 72-73,(if any)?

_____(ex.20%)

3.Would you say the % of native pupils, with "school problems",is increasing or that any increase ,as in question #2, can easily be explained by just an increase in the number of native pupils enrolled , compared to 72-73?

_____(ex.While the number of natives with school problems has increased, the % of natives in the school, with school problems, has stayed the same, thus pointing to the idea that the increase in numbers with school problems, can be explained by increased enrollment.)

4.If there is a trend to an increasing number of native pupils with "school problems", is there such a large increase among non-native pupils?

_____

_____

5.Could you rank "school problems",from most frequent to least frequent?

(ex.absenteeism,poor work habits,discipline)

_____

_____

_____

6.Could you rank from most important to least important,the causes of school problems,as you see them? Do not bother to relate causes to "school problems."

(ex.cultural adjustment(has not learned work habits that are helpful),alcoholism in home etc.)

_____

_____

_____

7.COMMENTS:_____

_____

_____

Thank You Very Much

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